DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. IV NO. 21 OCTOBER 28th 1955 Price: 15 Pf., 5c., 3d

The Chicken or the Egg?

By The Editor

As this issue of GERMAN REPORT goes to press, the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four are gathering at Geneva for their conference, at which European Security and the German question are scheduled for discussion: by the time this number is in the hands of many overseas readers the conference will probably have ended.

But even before the conference opens, public declarations by interested parties have made it clear what the main lines of argument are likely to be. To the superficial observer these declarations may have recalled the classic argument about which came first, the chicken or the egg.

Spokesmen of the West German Federal Republic and the seconds in their corner, the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France and the United States have declared: "Germany must first be unified, and then we can discuss the subject of a European Security Pact. The partitioning of Germany has caused the tension, and this tension can only be relaxed when the country is reunified."

Spokesmen of the German Democratic Republic, and the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, have declared in effect: "A European Security Pact must be concluded first. This will help the relaxation of tension, and provide a favourable atmosphere for German reunification."

Summed up baldly thus, it might appear at first sight that two sides are in fact repeating the fruitless chicken and egg argument. But there is one great fallacy: to keep to our parable, let us say that the egg offered by the western powers is not a chicken's egg at all: it is a dragon's egg. If it is hatched out it will produce not a peaceful chicken, but a fiery dragon, the dragon of aggressive German militarism.

An exaggeration? No: for since the ratification of the Paris Agreements in March this year, and the first steps in West Germany for the establishment of a Wehrmacht, led by Hitler's generals and integrated in NATO, any reunification of Germany on the terms proposed by the western powers would mean the integration of the whole of Germany in an aggressive military block: it would mean atom-bomb bases on the Polish frontier, and a great strengthening of the forces of militarism and reaction not only in Germany but in Europe as a whole.

But the government and the people of the German Democratic Republic have no intention of abandoning their great gains in the social field; they have no intention of giving up the great efforts they have made, and are making, to build a new Germany in which for the first time in history power is in the hands of the ordinary people and not in the hands of Prussian militarists, junkers and big business.

In short, the ratification of the Paris Agreements and the formation of the new West German Wehrmacht have made a peaceful reunification of Germany impossible for the time being. That is why the government and people of the German Democratic Republic, with the full support of the Soviet Union and peace forces in every country call today for the conclusion, as the first step, of a European Security Pact.

Such a pact, to which all European countries in East and West could adhere, would lead to the liquidation both of the Western European Union established by the Paris Agreements, and of the Warsaw Treaty for the defence of the eastern European states, including the German Democratic Republic. The Warsaw Treaty, signed on May 14th this year, stated specifically that it would become void on the signature of a European Security Pact.

There are at present two states in German: in the West the German Federal Republic and in the East the German Democratic Republic. Both these states could and should be members of the proposed European Security Pact, and this alone would help to bring the two states together.

A European Security Pact is no magic formula. It alone cannot solve the difficult problem of reunifying Germany. But it can remove the spectre of aggressive German militarism, the spectre which for decades has been haunting Europe, and thus clear the way for the discussions between the governments and the people in East and West Germany, which alone can lead to a reunification of the country in peace.

WEST GERMAN SUPPORT FOR EUROPE'S FASCISTS

Interesting details of the support given by the West German Government to discredited fascist collaborators from East Europe have been given by the Honourable Terence Prittie, Bonn Correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian", in a talk on the Third Programme of the BBC. Here are his comments, as printed in the "Listener", London, October 13th 1955:

"It is no coincidence that the old experts of the Ost-Abteilung of Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry are back in office. Two Federal Ministers, Herr Oberlaender and Herr Kraft, are former 'eastern experts' who held responsible posts at a time when Alfred Rosenberg was founding his 'new order' in eastern Europe. Herr Oberlaender has packed his Ministry with men of similar persuasions. The eastern experts still toy with ideas of a Danubian Federation, of a German-Polish condominium east of the River Oder, of an Upper Silesian European development corporation.

"One German office—that for the 'Care of Homeless Foreigners'—deserves special mention. Its sponsors believe in the 'German solution' for eastern Europe. They maintain contact with such outdated organisations as the fascist Iron Guard of Rumania, the fascist Arrow Cross of Hungary, the Ukrainian partisans originally raised by the anti-semite Petlura, and the Tiso Slovaks. This office passes out government funds to these dubious people in retainer fees, and to the publications of emigre groups which no longer have the slightest weight in their home countries. In July, German Ministers attended the funeral of Matus Cernak, a pro-nazi Slovak and former member of the fascist Hlinka Guard, who was assassinated in Munich.

"This office is evidently unable to distinguish between discredited German war-time agents and collaborators, and genuine opponents of communism. Its time is wasted with the problems of members of the former Baltic S.S. division 'Nordland', of the Rumanian Legion 'Prinz Eugen', and over the future of the 'national committees' which squabble unceasingly and total thirty-five in Bavaria alone. One American observer said to me: 'The truth is the Germans do not believe in real independence for the east European peoples. They regard them as inferior, not deserving normal national rights and therefore best fitted into some all-embracing German plan . . .'

"The Oder-Neisse line will lurch increasingly into a foreground of German politics. It is already being widely publicised . . . The canvassing of public opinion abroad has been intensified. From the Ruhr town of Schwerte, a monthly newsletter is being sent to British families which explains, in very Germanic terms, the histories of the lost eastern provinces. This newsletter strives to show that Britain and the United States together will be held responsible for the readjustment of the eastern frontier, that Germans were always civilising agents and lived on the best of terms with Slav neighbours, and that the 'new order' of Alfred Rosenberg was a reasonable model for the future.

"Two months ago the chairman of the 'Association of German Expellees', Dr Linus Kather, demanded the restoration of the lost provinces, and added, 'If the Federal Government does nothing, we shall be obliged to take other steps' . . .

"This Oder-Neisse question will inevitably be linked with that of German reunification. That is why it will become increasingly important and not because of the refugees themselves. About three-quarters of them have already been integrated into the life of western Germany; their youth is growing up with no clear memory of their old homes; and rational Germans know that the resettlement of the lost provinces is a practical impossibility. The refugees who want to go back are almost exclusively landlords and well-to-do farmers."

Those "Refugees"

Western papers in the past few weeks have been full once again of stories of "East German refugees" fleeing to political asylum in West Germany.

There is a steady movement of Germans from East Germany to West Germany, and also in the opposite direction. In recent weeks, for instance, more than 300 West Germans every day have been moving into East Germany to find work and found a new life. What is the real truth about the move in the opposite direction? Some interesting pointers on this subject were given recently in an article in the "Manchester Guardian" of October 5th 1955, signed by Malcolm Page, a young Englishman who recently worked for a few weeks in one of the transit camps for young East Germans situated in West Germany. Here are a few extracts from his interesting article:

"All the young refugee boys who cross from the East alone are gathered at Sandbostel, a former prisoner-of-war camp on the edge of Luneburg Heath. This is a scattered group of Nissen huts, and although the barbed wire was quickly removed it still has a semi-military 'institutional' look.

"The camp is run by a number of welfare organisations — YMCA, Red Cross, Evangelical Church . . . They endeavour to find accomodation and work for the boys . . . Those with relatives in the West join them, and the skilled find work easily, but most are unskilled. Farm work has not proved satisfactory, as farmers do not attempt to understand their problems, and now the majority go into the Ruhr industries. If a boy has no job or is of doubtful character he is put to farm work as one of a group of 30 under a welfare worker; but in spite of this arrangement one in five 'go the wrong way' and they are said to provide most of the recruits for the French Foreign Legion . . .

"More than half the boys come from disturbed home conditions, having lost one or both parents, and many have been imprisoned for minor offenses such as stealing potatoes . . . Certainly most cross for personal and social reasons, and those with political reasons were rare . . .

"Relatives and broadcasts have told them that West Germany is wonderful, so generally they are disappointed when they find they cannot do as they like in the land of liberty . . .

"The refugees in the work camp were full of life, eager to play football at all hours, but unenthusiastic workers. They read mainly 'Superman' comics, and could have taught the British Army quite a lot about 'scrounging'."

WEHRMACHT SOLDIERS FOR MOROCCO – AND CYPRUS?

West German conscripts called up for service in the new West German Wehrmacht under the command of Hitler's generals could be sent to suppress national liberation movements in Morocco, Cyprus, or other NATO areas under the terms of legislation now being passed through the West German Parliament.

The Army Law, presented to the West German Parliament for first reading on October 12th, stated specifically: "The alliance system in which the fighting forces will be integrated will sometimes demand that soldiers should serve abroad."

This implements the decision of the Paris Conference, signed on October 23rd 1954, stating:

"The North Atlantic Council . . . (7) agrees, in the interest of most effective collective defence, that in respect of combat forces in the area of Allied Command, Europe, and under the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe;

(a) all deployments shall be in accordance with NATO strategy;

(b) the location of forces in accordance with NATO operational plans shall be determined by the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe . . ."

(British White Paper Cmd. 9304, page 53)

The new West German Army Act, which is likely to be passed in the near future by the Bonn Parliament, states specifically that it is based upon nazi legislation. The preamble to the law states that the new legislation is based upon: "The Army Acts of 1921 and 1935 (when Hitler reintroduced conscription, ed.), the legislation on Professional Duties of the German soldier of 1929, the Duties of the German Soldier of 1934, the Military Criminal Code of 1940."

The new legislation makes special provision for the reinstatement in the new Wehrmacht of nazi soldiers who were sentenced by Allied Courts after 1945 for war crimes which they had committed. The preamble to the law states specifically "Sentences passed after the collapse (of the nazi state, ed.) may conflict with the present-day juristic attitude". The war criminal trials after 1945 "should be regarded as a passing phase, and need not influence the legislation to be passed in Germany."

SOVIET UNION DEFINES RELATIONS WITH DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

The Soviet Union, in a note dated October 18th, has formally notified the western powers of its revised relations with the German Democratic Republic, following the signature of the Moscow Treaty on September 20th 1955.

The new Soviet note was in answer to identical notes sent by Britain, France and the United States on October 3rd, which had stated that the Soviet Union had no right to hand over to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic obligations devolving on the Soviet Union under four-power agreements.

The Soviet answer of October 18th formally apprised the western powers of the Moscow Treaty between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic and informed them of the terms of the treaty, and of the exchange of documents connected with it.

The Soviet Note to Britain said in part:

"On September 20th this year the Government of the Soviet Union and the Government of the German Democratic Republic signed the 'Treaty on Relations between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic' which has now entered into force after the ratification by the parliaments of both countries . . . On the conclusion of this treaty the Soviet Government took the decision to abolish the office of High Commissioner of the USSR in Germany, and to declare invalid in the territory of the German Democratic Republic the laws, directives and orders of the former Control Council for Germany, which were issued by the occupation powers in exercise of their occupation rights in Germany.

"Simultaneously the Soviet Union, taking into consideration the actual position — the existence of two self-governing sovereign states on German territory — has established diplomatic relations with the German Federal Republic. Thus the Soviet Union has at present diplomatic relations with both states which exist on German territory.

"The Government of Great Britain has diplomatic relations with one German state, the German Federal Republic, with which it has concluded various treaties, and thus infringed obligations entered into under Four Power decisions on Germany. Normal relations do not exist between Great Britain and the other part of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, but this can naturally be no obstacle to a necessary adjustment of the relations between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic."

The Soviet Note then pointed out that the new agreement gave the German Democratic Republic full control over its territory, including the traffic lanes across this territory; at the same time it had been agreed that for the time being the Soviet authorities should continue, as in the past, to be responsible for the control of British, French and United States military traffic between West Germany and West Berlin. The Soviet note then continued:

"It is self-evident that in concluding the treaty referred to above the Governments of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic took into account the obligations of both sides under the valid international agreements regarding Germany as a whole."

Blind Foreign Minister?

"The Government of the German Federal Republic regards the Government of the so-called German Democratic Republic as non-existent"

West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano, speaking in Berlin, October 20th 1955

SLEEP YOURSELF HEALTHY

New Methods in East Berlin

A new institute for sleep therapy, the first of its kind in Germany, opened in October in Buch, East Berlin. Here patients suffering from various gland, stomach and circulation disturbances can be treated without the use of medicines or surgical procedures.

The Director, Dr. Baumann, who showed the first visitors over the new clinic on October 6th, has been working for six years on the project and has made a special study of methods evolved by the Soviet physiologist, Professor I. P. Pavlov, in sleep therapy clinics in the Soviet Union.

The institute stands alone on the quiet outskirts of the big hospital site in Buch, and when you enter it you can hardly imagine it is a hospital at all, for there are no signs of enamelled hospital beds or medical instruments and apparatus. The comfortable two and three-bed, air-conditioned rooms, which can be regulated to summer or winter temperatures, are furnished with armchairs, low tables and bedside lamps and the cupboards are built-in.

A loud-speaker column is builit inconspicuously into the wall of each room, and walls, ceiling and floors are sound-proofed, so that the only sounds reaching patients are those conveyed through the loud-speaker (or better soft speaker)—a gentle murmur of waves, rain falling or the ticking of a clock, according to the particular sensitivity of patients.

There are rooms full of complicated and interesting technical wonders—air-conditioning plant, magnetophone and other radio equipment installed with the help of radio experts, and electrical apparatus of various kinds, but the only contact which a patient has with the technique of treatment is when he goes to the sound-proofed Pavlov room for sound and colour tests which give doctors the clue to the best way of treating him.

Patients react differently to various colours and sounds and these reactions are registered for the doctor's information in fixing the best methods of inducing sleep.

Sleep actually fills about 16 hours of the day, and while the patient sleeps a seismograph reacts to his every movement, signals it in the observation room and registers it on a chart. Heart-beat microphones and other apparatus also work automatically and unnoticed by the patient.

A short documentary film of the clinic has been made by the DEFA film company, and this will also be showing shortly in cinemas abroad.

One million see Thaelmann Film

More than one million people in the German Democratic Republic have seen the great new colour film "Thaelmann—Leader of the Working Class" during the first three weeks of its run in East Germany. The colour film, which critics agree is one of the finest ever produced in Germany, depicts the life and struggle of Ernst Thaelmann, General Secretary of the German Communist Party, from 1930 until his murder by the nazis in 1944.

OLD MASTERS BACK

Seven hundred and fifty valuable old masters, including the famous "Sixtine Madonna" arrived in Berlin during the first half of October from the Soviet Union. The pictures, formerly exhibited in Dresden picture galleries, were rescued by Soviet soldiers in 1945 from mines and other places where they had been hidden by the nazis. Many of the pictures, which had been damaged during their storage in unsuitable places, have been restored to their original beauty by Soviet experts.

Later this year the returned art treasures will go on show in the East Berlin National Gallery, and will later be restored to their original places in galleries in Dresden.

Joris Ivens, well-known Dutch film producer, will begin filming the story of "Till Eulenspiegel" in the East German DEFA studios early next year. French film actor Gérard Philipe, who starred in "Fanfan the Hussar" and "Ruy Blas", is to play the title role.

British Classic on East Berlin Stage

One of the great successes in the new Berlin theatre season has been the production in East Berlin of the famous British classic "The Recruiting Officer" by George Farquhar (1678—1707).

The play, adapted for the modern stage by the talented dramatists of Bert Brecht's "Berliner Ensemble" has delighted the public and the critics, including such "non-eastern" crities as the Berlin correspondent of the "Times", London. Here is what he had to say about this new production on October 9th 1955:

"Among the productions now to be seen at the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm in Berlin's east sector is Farquhar's comedy 'The Recruiting Officer', in a version by the Berliner Ensemble entitled 'Pauken und Trompeten'. Although the name of Bertolt Brecht nowhere figures on the programme, his familiar hallmark is stamped on both text and production.

"The play is no longer a pure comedy of manners. To point the moral (or immorality) of the press-gangs, the action now takes place during the American War of Independence instead of the War of the Spanish Succession, and the programme note tells us that thus Farquhar's critical insight into the mechanism of militarism has been rendered more acute; it now hits not only the British recruiting mill of 1705, but all attempts to press mercenaries into the service of looting and colonial armies."

"Fortunately, the adaptation is less tendentious than the programme leads one to fear at first: the exploitation of the under-privileged and the hypocrisy of the bourgeoisie are not laboured unduly—indeed, one may say that the satire of our own caricaturists of the time (such as Gilray) was much more pointed and vicious than Brecht's is today.

"The production is a delight from start to finish, the playing (with one or two exceptions) of a style and polish beyond praise. Wolf Kaiser, as Captain Brazen, gives the kind of bravura performance which one had thought was the sole prerogative of Sir Lawrence Oliver, and Regina Lutz, as Victoria Balance, is amusing and touching in the extreme, especially in the predicament of her soldierly disguise.

"The settings, suspended on white string, are of a delicate simplicity recalling but not slavishly copying that of eighteenth century engravings. All is harmony, except perhaps the music; some of Brecht's typical chansons, set to music this time by Rudolf Wagner Régeny, seem curiously at odds with the spirit of the whole."

PARLIAMENTARY "WHO'S WHO"

Nazis, Militarists, War Profiteers in West German Parliament

(On these pages we present a "Who's Who" of some members of the West German Parliament. Passages in black type are quoted verbatim from the "Official Handbook of the German Federal Parliament", published in Darmstadt, West Germany, July 1954. The other details quoted have been published at various dates in newspapers in West and East Germany, **and have not been denied by the persons named.** *This listing cannot claim to be exhaustive, since reliable biographical details about many of the members of the West German Parliament are very difficult to obtain.)*

ADENAUER, Konrad

Chancellor and Foreign Minister, Christian Democratic Union. After First World War intrigued for separatist Rhineland State. In 1929 as Lord Mayor of Cologne, cabled Mussolini "Your name will be entered in book of history in golden letters." Nazi authorities retired him, but paid him full pension. During nazi period "He did not worry. He pottered about in his garden, and tended his roses" stated American official newspaper "Neue Zeitung" on September 16th 1949. His present programme: "Our aim is to liberate our brothers and sisters in the eastern territories" (Speech on September 7th 1953)

In September 1955 he admitted that he had been a regular agent of the French Intelligence Service in the years 1948—49 (see GERMAN REPORT dated October 14th 1955)

ATZENROTH, Karl

Free Democratic Party. Factory owner, chairman of Wood Industry Employers Association. **1939/45 war participant, ending as regimental commander.**

BARTRAM, Walter

Christian Democratic Union. Active member of militarist "Stahlhelm" before 1933. Joined nazi party in 1937.

BAUSCH, Paul

Christian Democratic Union. **Affiliated to nazi fraction in first all-Hitlerite Reichstag, December 1933.**

BERENDSEN, Fritz

Chairman of Christian Democratic Union Parliamentary Fraction, member of Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and European Security Committee. Leading executive of Kloeckner Steel Concern, which made huge war profits from nazi arms contracts. Professional soldier 1923—45.

1936—38 attended Berlin War Academy; during the war occupied various posts on General Staff; final rank of colonel.

BISMARCK, Prince Otto

Christian Democratic Union. Member of Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, Deputy Delegate to Consultative Committee of Council of Europe. Part owner of banking house "Schacht und Ludwig" run by Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's financial wizard. **Entered Foreign Service in 1927 ... until 1936 Embassy Counsellor at German Embassy in London; January 1937 to Spring 1940 Director of Political Section of Foreign Ministry; Minister attached to German Embassy in Rome until August 1943.**

BLANK, Martin

Free Democratic Party. Director of the Gute Hoffnung Foundry concern, which made enormous profits from nazi war contracts and exploitation of slave labour. **War participant 1939—45.**

BLANK, Theodor

Christian Democratic Party, Head of West German de facto War Ministry. Served throughout war as Lieutenant in Hitler's army. Stated in 1954 that Waffen SS should be "re-used" in ranks of new West German Wehrmacht which he is forming ("Deutsche Soldatenzeitung" January 1st 1954)

"Krokodil", Moscow

BLUECHER, Franz

Free Democrat, Deputy Chancellor and Minister for Economic Cooperation. From 1938—45 director of bank in Essen owned by war-criminal Friedrich Flick. Programme: "Every single one of us must give his full moral support to German soldierliness, which is nothing more nor less than a moral conception" ("German Soldiers' Calendar" 1955 page 128).

BRENTANO, Heinrich von

Christian Democratic Union. Foreign Minister, Member of Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. Served as lawyer in nazi courts throughout Hitler period.

BUCERIUS, Gerhard

Christian Democratic Union. Director of four large companies. Served as lawyer throughout nazi period.

BUCHER, Ewald

Free Democratic Party. **Volunteered for Wehrmacht. 1941 to end of war service on west and east fronts, finally as battery commander.**

BUCHKA, Karl von

Christian Democratic Union. **War participant 1939/45, finally divisional adjutant.**

BUERKEL, Dietrich

Christian Democratic Union. **1936 high official in Labour Ministry ... 1943 to 1945 Section Head in Gau Labour Office, Dusseldorf.** (This Gau Labour Office had the task of allotting foreign slave labourers for munitions factories.)

BURGEMEISTER, Alfred

Christian Democratic Union. Member of Parliamentary European Defence Committee. Retired colonel. **1926 joined army, 1934 regular officer ... 1938 War Academy in Berlin. From commencement of war until beginning of 1942 employed on higher staffs ... From June 1942 commanded infantry regiment on eastern front and Balkans ... At present deputy chairman of the Helmstedt branch of German Soldiers' Association.**

CONRING, Hermann

Christian Democratic Union. **During the Second World War Governor of the Province of Groningen, Holland.** On May 3rd 1943, Conring called in SS troops to deal with Dutch strikers, and then reported to headquarters: "The police forces which we used fulfilled their duties in an exemplary fashion ... 23 persons were shot dead and 13 wounded."

CZERMAK, Fritz

Independent, formerly BHE (Refugee Party). **1939 to January 1942 Government Commissar (Mayor) of Olmuetz** (nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia). **From February 1942 to May 1943 First Lieutenant in the Wehrmacht.**

DITTRICH, Stefan

Christian Social Union (Bavarian equivalent of Christian Democratic Union). **War participant 1939/45, decorated on eastern front with Knight's Cross of Iron Cross.**

DRESBACH, August

Christian Democratic Union. Worked as departmental editor on nazi newspapers 1933—43. **1944 deputy chief of Gau Chamber of Commerce, Cologne-Aachen.**

ECKHARDT, Walter

Independent, formerly BHE (Refugee Party). During the Second World War Ministerial Director in Hitler's Finance Ministry, in charge of financial problems in nazi-occupied eastern Europe.

ELSNER, Martin

BHE (Refugee Party). **Untersturmfuehrer of Hitler's black-uniformed SS. 1933—1942 district officer of Rosenberg district. 1942—45 district officer of Rybnik district.** Interned after war by British as dangerous nazi.

"Soldatenzeitung", Munich

ENGELBRECHT-GREVE, Ernst

Christian Democratic Union. **1939—45 war participant on eastern and western fronts, final rank major.**

ENGELL, Hans-Egon

BHE (Refugee Party). Joined nazi party 1931, was instructor in the foreign department of the party. Appointed Prime Minister of Mecklenburg August 1933. Rank of Oberfuehrer in the black-uniformed SS.

ESCHMANN, Fritz

Sozial Democrat. **April 1933 appointed police sergeant in Wuppertal. 1936 transferred to Wehrmacht as long-term non-commissioned officer. In Second World War officer, finally captain ... 1944 decorated with Knight's Cross of Iron Cross.**

EULER, August-Martin

Free Democratic Party. **August 1939 legal adviser to IG Farben and general administrator of the chemical branch Berlin.** (The chemical branch of IG Farben produced the Zyklon poison gas used for murdering many millions in nazi concentration camps).

FELLER, Erwin

BHE (Refugee Party). **War participant 1939—42 ... 1943—1944 in schools service attached to chief of civil administration in Alsace** (occupied France).

FINCKENSTEIN, Countess Eva

Independent, formerly BHE (Refugee Party). Opinion: "In the German view, the majority of the war sentencees (war criminals, ed.) are not guilty of any crime and would never have been sentenced by a German court." (Parliamentary debate on February 17th 1955)

GERNS, Heinrich

Christian Democratic Union. **Participant in both world wars, cavalry, infantry, Luftwaffe. Colonel of the Luftwaffe.**

GRAF, Benno

Christian Social Union. **1934 to 1938 employee of Folk Federation for Germanism Abroad ... 1940 to 1945 war participant, mainly on eastern front.**

HELLWIG, Fritz

Christian Democratic Union. Director of German Industrial Institute in Cologne. **1940 to 1943 director of south-western department of Economic Group of Iron Industries.** (This was a nazi war production organisation.

HENKEL VON DONNERSMARK, Count Georg

Christian Social Union. Autumn 1937 joined NSDAP (Nazi Party), without official function. 1939/45 war participant — Poland, North Africa, Italy, East — 1939 seriously wounded in front of Warsaw as company commander.

HEYE, Heilmuth Guido Alexander

Christian Democratic Union. Member of Parliamentary Committees for Foreign Affairs and European Security. **1914 joined Imperial Navy. Active naval officer until 1945, lastly as commander of heavy cruiser 'Admiral Hipper' ... Since 1946 cooperation with Historical Department of U.S. Navy ... Expert on the building of defence organisation and on military-political questions.**

HOECHERL, Hermann

Christian Social Union. **1938 State Prosecutor in Regensburg. 1940 to 1945 war participant, lastly as lieutenant.**

JAEGER, Richard

Christian Social Union. Vice-President of Parliament. **1940 judicial assessor at Weilheim Court, 1943 junior judge. 1939—45 war participant.**

KAISER, Jakob

Christian Democrat, Minister for All-German Affairs. Opinions: "A real Europe can only be formed when German unity has been restored. This includes ... not only Germany but also Austria, part of Switzerland, the Saar and Alsace-Lorraine." (Neue Zuericher Zeitung, January 26th 1952).

KATHER, Linus

BHE (Refugee Party). Opinion: "We are not ready to recognise the Oder-Neisse line. We cannot agree to reunification if there is reunification without the German expellee areas .. like Pomerania, Silesia and the Sudetenland." (Parliamentary debate on February 24th 1955.)

KOERNER, GEORG

Independent, formerly BHE (Refugee Party). Joined nazi party October 1929. Nazi "Gau propagandist" for Berlin. After 1933 member of "Fuehrer's Great Council". Interned by French as dangerous nazi, 1945 till 1946.

KORTMANN, Johannes

Christian Democratic Union. **1921 to 1937 instructor in advanced naval technical school ... from 1937 professional officer. Discharged in 1946 as naval captain.**

KRAFT, Waldemar

Independent, formerly BHE (Refugee Party) Minister without Portfolio. Major of black-uniformed SS, with membership number 347,148. Before war was leader of extreme German nationalistic organisation of "German Peasants in Poland" which helped prepare way for German invasion in 1939. Interned by British as dangerous nazi 1945—47.

LENZ, Otto

Christian Democratic Union. **Until 1933 press official, then official for economic law in Prussian Ministry of Justice. 1938 District Court Judge... During Second World War legal adviser to Reich Commissar in Naval Prize Court.**

LEVERKUEHN, Paul

Christian Democratic Union. **1939 Supreme Army Command. 1940 Consul in Taebriz, Persia. 1941 sent by Foreign Ministry to Paris. 1941 to 1944 assistant of the military attache at German Embassy in Turkey. 1944 legal plenipotentiary of the Deutsche Weapon and Munition Works. 1948 Defence Counsel in case against Supreme Wehrmacht Command in Nuremberg.** Publications include: "German Military Intelligence" published in London 1954 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

MANTEUFFEL, Hasso von

Free Democratic Party. **1907 to 1916 educated in cadet corps, then professional officer. Participant in First and Second World War, finally as Panzer General and Supreme Commander of a Panzer Army; mainly in action in the east, also in Africa, from autumn 1944 in west; many times wounded; holder of the highest German decorations for valour... Chairman of Security Committee of Free Democratic Party.** On February 18th 1945 Hitler awarded Manteuffel highest nazi decoration "Laurel Wreath with Swords and Diamonds to Knight's Cross of Iron Cross". Accepting decoration, Manteuffel stated: "We know... what is being suffered by thousands of our suffering German people, and this will make us still more fanatical and hard in the fight for final victory." In Parliamentary speech on December 16th 1954 he declared: "I would not for one moment consider asking the young men whether they want to be soldiers or not."

MANTEUFFEL-SZOEGE, Baron Georg

Christian Social Union. Former **big landowner in eastern Poland. From 1942 to 1945 activity on the family estates in East Poland.** Opinion: "Germany has a mission in the western world to provide the trinity of military force, the new order in the economy, and the moral forces." (Parliamentary debate February 24th 1955)

MENDE, Erich

Free Democratic Party. **1939—45 war duty as front-line officer, finally as Major and regimental commander; twice wounded.** Opinion: "It is an absolute fairy tale to say that Germany has ever been warlike... We shall have to see to it that we can use the 300,000 or 400,000 survivors of the Waffen SS in the new Wehrmacht." (Parliamentary debate February 24th 1955).

MERKATZ, Hans-Joachim von

German Party. Minister for Bundesrat Affairs. **1435 government examination in law in Berlin. Activity... at the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin.** (This institute was training school for nazi agents in Spanish speaking countries. In this capacity Merkatz was accessory in murder in May 1944 of Mr Arthur Yenken, Acting British Minister in Madrid).

MEYER, Philipp

Christian Social Union. Member of Synod of Bavarian Evangelical Church. Kreisleiter (District Leader) of Nazi Party.

MOCKER, Karl

BHE (Refugee Party). **1935 political activity in the Sudeten German Sammlung** (The nazi fifth column which prepared the way for Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia).

OBERLAENDER, Theodor

Independent, formerly BHE (Refugee Party) Minister for Refugees. Joined Nazi Party 1933, rose to rank of major in brownshirted SA. In 1939 was appointed Reich Leader of Federation of Germans in the East, attached to staff of Gauleiter of East Prussia. Opinion: "The expulsion of Germans from the German eastern territories has cancelled all German war crimes; we are morally absolutely quits." (Speech in Kassel, November 24th 1954.)

PFERDMENGES, Robert

Christian Democratic Union. Personal adviser to Chancellor Adenauer. Banker and director of 42 companies. Laid foundations of his fortune under Hitler by "aryanising" Jewish-owned Cologne banking house Oppenheim. Named as economic war criminal by Kilgore Committee of U.S. Senate.

PREUSKER, Viktor Emmanuel

Free Democratic Party. Housing Minister. "Herr Preusker joined a motorised unit of the Storm Troops in Berlin in 1933 when he was 20 years of age. He joined the SS about the same time" (New York Times January 17th 1954.) Preusker was SS instructor in "racial questions" and "aryanisation expert" for the Dresdener Bank. In 1939 he received special diploma from the bank for his work "in freeing German economy from the Jewish yoke."

PFLEIDERER, Karl Georg

Free Democratic Party. Ambassador to Yugoslavia **1941 to 1942 participation as cavalry captain in eastern campaign. July 1943 embassy counsellor in Stockholm, 1944 Consul General.**

RIEDERER VON PAAR, Freiherr Max

Christian Social Union. **1919 volunteer in Free Corps Epp-suppression of Soviet regime in Bavaria... War participant 1939—44 finally as major.**

SCHAEFFER, Fritz

Christian Social Union. Minister of Finance. Opinion: "Adolf Hitler is the renovator of the Reich" (Regensburger Anzeiger, May 4th 1933). Removed from office in Bavaria in September 1945 by American authorities who stated: "Schaeffer must be regarded as nazi sympathiser and nazi collaborator".

SCHEEL, Walter

Free Democratic Party. **1939—45 war participant in Luftwaffe, final rank of First Lieutenant. Iron Cross First and Second Class.**

SCHMID, Carlo

Social Democratic Party. Vice President of Parliament. During Second World War Administration Counsellor in Lille, occupied France.

"Humanité", Paris

SCHMIDT, Martin

Social Democratic Party. **1940 to 1943 agricultural expert in research service and planning service for occupied eastern territories. 1943—45 war participant.**

SCHMIDT, Helmut

Social Democratic Party. **1939—45 war participant, finally First Lieutenant and battery commander.**

SCHNEIDER, Herbert

German Party. **1935 volunteered for Luftwaffe. 1937 promoted to officer ... 1939—45 war participant ... Iron Cross First and Second Class ... Finally active as Captain in Supreme Luftwaffe Command.** Opinion: "Ten years after the end of the war there are still hundreds of war sentencees. It is impossible to claim that most of these are unsocial elements or war criminals. They must be paroled and released." (Parliamentary debate February 24th 1955.)

SCHRANZ, Helmuth

German Party. **1934 to 1944 Lord Mayor of Offenbach. 1945 to 1948 interned** (as dangerous nazi)

SCHROEDER, Gerhard

Christian Democratic Union. Minister of the Interior. Joined brownshirted SA in 1933. Opinion: "The Federal Republic is the core of Germany. All other German territory is land which has been stolen from us, and which we must regain." (Industriekurier, Dusseldorf, June 13th 1953).

SEEBOHM, Hans-Christoph

German Party. Transport Minister. Chairman of Federation of Lower Saxony Foundry Owners. Opinions: "European culture can only be found where Germans live." (Public meeting in Rudesheim, August 9th 1952). "The German East ... includes not only the Elbe and the Oder, but also Bohemia and all areas in which Germans once settled." ("Offene Worte zum Zeitgeschehen", Cologne, August 2nd 1953).

SORNIK, Paul

BHE (Refugee Party). During Second World War high government official in Kattowice (occupied Poland) and from 1944 until end of war in 1945 was acting Gauleiter of the nazi party in Polish Upper Silesia.

STARKE, Heinz

Free Democratic Party. **1940 ... law court assessor in Berlin. Until 1945 war participant — east and west fronts — final rank of captain.**

STRAUSS, Franz-Josef

Christian Social Union. Minister for Special Duties. **1939—45 war participant in France and Russia.** Opinion: "The Prussian officer is the ideal type of German" (Speech on June 29th 1952).

TILLMANNS, Robert

Christian Democratic Union. Minister without Portfolio. Served throughout war as private secretary to Friedrich Flick, arms magnate who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment by U.S. court for war crimes.

WALTER, Albert

German Party. 1939—45 Gestapo agent in Spain, Portugal, Norway and Holland. Author of nazi propaganda book "The English War and the German workers".

SET A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF

The West German Parliament has appointed a special "Personnel Board" to screen applicants for high-ranking positions in the new West German Wehrmacht. The terms of reference of the board laid down that it should ensure the "democratic character" of the new generals.

By the middle of October, the Personnel Board had examined and approved eleven generals for the new Wehrmacht, all of whom rose to that rank in Hitler's Army. A glance at the biographies of some of the members of the Personnel Board shows what a "democratic character" many of the screeners have:

General Adolf Kuntzen. Commanded a nazi Panzer Division in the invasion of France. Later headed the Personnel Department of the nazi Wehrmacht.

Colonel Freiherr von Schlabrendorf. Big landowner, general staff officer on Eastern Front in World War Two.

Colonel Helmuth von Grolmann. Chief of General Staff of the Army Group South Ukraine in 1944, when this army group distinguished itself by its scorched earth tactics.

Fridolin von Senger und Etterlin. Nazi military governor in Italy. In 1953 published military study on "Leadership Problems in the Use of Mechanised Units in Russia".

Hans Georg von Seidel. Military aide to Field Marshal Hermann Goering.

Otto A. Friedrich. General Director of the Phoenix Rubber Trust, who made enormous profits from the supply of tyres for Hitler's war machine.

Karl von Elern. East Prussian junker, member of the board of the "East Prussian Association" and spokesman for the forcible conquest of territories in East Europe.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 45 Museum St., London W. C. 1

All other communications should be addressed to:

Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

West German Unions Sack Progressives

The Central Board of the West German Trade Union Federation has sacked a number of leading employees who have been accused of pressing for an independent and progressive trade union policy. The men sacked include Dr. Viktor Agartz, head of the Economic Science Institute run by the unions; Professor Cleitze and two other leading officials of the institute.

Dr. Agartz, who has frequently pressed for a more active trade union policy, both on wages and on political conditions, has also been one of the outspoken opponents of the re-nazification of West Germany. GERMAN REPORT reprinted on November 12th 1954 extracts from his speech to the annual conference of the West German Trade Union Federation in which he said: "We regard with the greatest anxiety the emergence of fascist elements in the administration and in politics."

"Punish Auschwitz Doctor"

The World Jewish Congress has called on the West German Government to try, for crimes against humanity, Professor Karl Glauberg, who made medical experiments on Jewish women in Auschwitz Concentration Camp. For more news of Professor Glauberg, see "Berlin Notebook" on page 160 of this issue.

BOOKS - FOR THE PEOPLE

By Henryk Keisch

The fourth Congress of German Writers will be held in East Berlin early in December. It will be of much greater significance than the previous three post-war congresses. For months now, newspapers and magazines in the German Democratic Republic have been discussing it as an event which is of interest to all kinds of people. Hundreds of writers, poets, dramatists and literary critics are preparing to attend it. Spirited discussions are expected—discussions which do not limit themselves to purely literary and professional questions, but which touch on problems raised by the realities of our times, and especially the realities in Germany, which are so complex and so full of contradictions. Through literature they will try to capture that which is its object—life.

How is it to be explained that writers can put forward such a programme, so little in accordance with the usual ideas of these "dwellers in ivory towers"? In order to understand this, it should be recalled that there is already a certain tradition in meetings of this kind. There were several such meetings, national and international, in the Soviet Union in the 1920's and 1930's; Romain Rolland and, above all, Henri Barbusse have written about their great interest in them. Many western writers will also remember the international congress held in Paris in 1935, and certainly that held in 1937 in Madrid, in the midst of war, in a city besieged by fascist rebels.

Every one of these meetings emphasised the principle of the responsibility of writers with regard to social and political problems of their times. Each was the occasion for renewed confirmation of the connection between writers' literary and aesthetic preoccupations on the one hand, and their vision of the world—a vision closely bound up with the ideals of peace, democracy and progress—on the other.

This tradition of writers' congresses has ben resumed in East Germany and the other People's Democracies since the war. The coming congress in Berlin will open with an analysis of the work of the last few years. It will consider how far books published recently have kept pace with the evolution of our country and our people, to what extent they have helped to speed up and to direct this evolution, and what are their shortcomings and mistakes.

The question of realism will certainly be to the fore. The word realism, in fact, sums up the difficulties, advantages and wonderful opportunities which confront literature in a country which is building up a new society.

The word recurs constantly in newspaper discussions, in the frequent literary meetings, at coffee time. Realism per se, critical realism, socialist realism — these expressions are not just shades of meaning brought up for the sake of splitting hairs. On the contrary, they represent precise conceptions which are useful as criteria in judging the position of a book and its author.

Unanimity has long been arrived at on the principle of realism. A principle is one thing, however, and its proper application another. Realism in literature obviously means penetrating deep into the reality of life, being in complete possession of it, understanding its thousand voices, sensing its thousands of human, social and material by-ways. This is not easy even in a static society, and it becomes extremely difficult in a society such as that of the new Germany, which is in full process of transformation, a society full of movement and contradictions, weighed down on the one hand by the weight of the past, on the other hand rushing impetuously forward to the heights of socialism—a society which must not only overcome its natural growing pains, but which must at the same time defend itself against the hostile influences and sabotage so carefully fostered in West Berlin.

If an author wants to capture reality in such a society he is faced by extraordinarily difficult creative problems. Some idea of these problems was given by the letters and articles which appeared last spring in the East German trade union daily newspaper "Tribune". The "Tribune" had published an open letter, written by workers of the mining centre of Nachterstedt, calling on writers to pay more attention to "new people amongst us who create material things with their own hands, to the innovators in industrial production who work and fight consciously in the cause of the working people, the power of the workers and peasants."

"Write books about people whom we can recognise as our own", they said.

This letter stimulated a lively discussion amongst writers on the question of recognising the degree of political and class consciousness among the workers, and as to whether writers would be justified in considering the obviously advanced workers of Nachterstedt as typical.

The "Tribune" received numerous letters, most of which took up a position against a sort of scepticism evinced by a number of good writers on the question of the degree of political consciousness of the working class.

On the other hand, however, some have warned against the danger of an "illusionary" literature, which casts a rosy glow over men and things and minimises the difficulties of building up a new world. There is no doubt that this discussion itself, although it turns on and around literary questions, has greatly helped to raise the political level of many workers, as well as giving writers a better insight into the fighting spirit of the workers.

A second important point in the public discussion of the last few months is the question of whether art comes before ideology or ideology before art. Presented in this form, it obviously represents a false dilemma; nevertheless certain points of departure appear on occasion to approach dangerously near the one or the other extreme. It would take too long here to analyse the dispute; but it seems that a good balance will have been established on this question even before the congress opens. It is generally agreed today that an author who neglects or does not recognise the necessity of thinking of his subject in terms of his ideological position deprives himself of an important source of truth, a sure and infallible guide, and risks producing works of little significance.

On the other hand, however, being certain of oneself ideologically obviously does not guarantee good artistic work. A number of books will be used as examples in discussing this question at the congress —books full of good will, often full of talent, but which lack the breath of life, because their authors have either over-simplified and have thought they could reduce realities to a few given elements, to a few

conventional types, or have believed they should soften, blur or touch up their presentation of the actual conflicts inherent in the struggle forwards, thus producing books hardly more convincing.

This short and far from complete resumé gives an idea of the general line taken so far in preparatory discussions for the congress; discussion will be held in a critical spirit—sometimes vehement—which recalls the discussion following the congress of Soviet writers last year. The importance of criticism and self-criticism in the new countries is well known. But successes will certainly also be discussed; these are many and encouraging—books by authors young and old, books gay and serious, modest and ambitious; together, with their good qualities and their faults, they form something never before known in Germany and even today unknown in the western part of Germany: a democratic, popular literature reflecting the forces which will forever prevent Germany from falling back into the orbit of reaction.

YOU ASK — WE ANSWER

BOOKS IN EAST GERMANY

„Could you tell me something about book production in the German Democratic Republic, including some indication of the range of books published. I have read, for example, that Rilke and Hoelderlin are not obtainable ..... " *P. S., Cambridge.*

To start with the last point first, a volume of Hoelderlin's poems was published in 1952, selected by Johannes R. Becher, the present Minister of Culture, and with an introduction by the famous literary critic Georg Lukacs. This is still available. Two separate selections of Rainer Maria Rilke's poems were published about the same time by the Insel publishing house, one single-volume and one two-volume collection. Both editions have been sold out but they are to be reprinted.

And here are some notes on book publishing in general:

There were 6,261 book titles in East German bookshops in 1952 and a total of 112 million copies in all were sold. In 1953 sales were over 106 million copies of 8,235 books, about 5.6 books per head of the population.

* * *

Between January 1952 and September 1954, 109 works and collected editions of the German classics were published in East Germany and the total number of copies sold was over three and a half million.

* * *

Nearly one and a half million of these were Goethe's works. The most expensive Goethe edition is the six-volume edition (50,000 copies) which costs 28.50 marks—the price of two pairs of Perlon stockings — and the cheapest a one-volume selection at 6.50 marks. Similar editions of the other classics have appeared and reprints and new editions are in preparation.

Modern German writers—Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger, and those living in East Germany, like Anna Seghers (The Seventh Cross), Bodo Uhse (Lieutenant Bertram), Ludwig Renn and many others, are published in large editions; the Aufbau publishing company, for instance, printed and sold 420,000 volumes of Thomas Mann in the last two years and a new big collected edition is being prepared. This is about double the number sold in West Germany, and well-known writers like Heinrich Mann and Anna Seghers have had only one book each, published in paperback editions, in West Germany, while other books by authors living in East Germany do not get printed there at all.

* * *

The Marxist classics are available in inexpensive editions, from 80-pfennig pamphlets up to about 12 marks; Stalin's collected works sell at 4.50 marks the volume.

* * *

There are large numbers of charming children's books, including translations of Pinocchio, Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" and Stevensen's "Treasure Island" in various editions, including picture book form for quite small children; the classical fairy tales such as Hans Andersen and Grimm, several collections of Russian and Chinese fables, and all sorts of adventure stories.

An increasing number of spy, detective and mystery stories by new writers are coming on the market, as well as translations including Sherlock Holmes stories.

* * *

Translations from many languages, of classical and modern works from Homer to Howard Fast, from Thackeray to Louis Aragon, from Tolstoi to Ilya Ehrenburg, from Lu Hsin to Ting Ling, are on sale in all bookshops.

Forty-six translations of the French classics, for instance, in editions totalling 612,000 volumes, were available in 1952, and the figures for the last two years are impressive: 18 volumes of Balzac (307,000 copies); 7 volumes of Victor Hugo (140,000 copies); 8 volumes of Stendhal (180,000 copies); 3 volumes of Gustave Flaubert (120,000); 9 volumes of Emile Zola (145,000) and 4 volumes of Alphonse Daudet (50,000).

* * *

The 3,000 books displayed at this year's Leipzig Autumn Fair give some idea of what can be found in the bookshops today. The Aufbau publishing company had 428 titles including 57 new books, amongst them 56 volumes of the classics—Lessing, Heine, Schiller, Shakespeare, Gogol, Pushkin, Turgenyev and many others—and two new books by West German author Leonhard Frank and the first of Franz Werfel's books to be published here.

Ruetten and Loening showed 116, including 36 new books, by East and West German writers, and translations of the "Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Christo".

"Volk und Welt" displayed 105, including 16 new books; of special interest here is the first German translation of Jean Paul Sartre and a translation of Lord Russell of Liverpool's "Scourge of the Swastika".

Henschel, a publishing house which deals mainly with theatre and art publications, showed beautifully illustrated books about the Dresden Portrait Gallery and the German State Opera, and there was a great variety of books about architectural monuments and beauty spots in East and West Germany.

* * *

The Volk und Wissen publishing house, which produces all East German school and university textbooks, is the biggest in Germany. During the ten years of its existence it has printed 172,990,190 school books of all kinds, and 98,462,700 newspapers and journals, from the "ABC Zeitung" for the smallest school children to university journals and journals for teachers and lecturers in all branches.

EAST GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

By Joan Becker

15,500 new students entered East German universities this autumn, bringing the total to over 100,000 resident students — one student to every 205 inhabitants — and 55 per cent of these are workers' and peasants' children.

This is a tremendous achievement since the six old universities of Berlin, Leipzig, Halle, Jena, Rostock and Greifswald opened their doors again in September 1945 to about 13,300 students. There was little money, little equipment and fewer usable textbooks, for apart from war losses, it was necessary to cleanse the whole of university life of the spirit of fascism and to begin anew to build up a higher educational system which would give our students the knowledge they needed for the reconstruction of the country on peaceful and democratic lines, a system which would bring the latest technical and scientific knowledge to the children of all working people.

Another serious problem was to find suitable lecturers. A large number of lecturers and professors who had taught in the universities during the Nazi period were unacceptable, and it was necessary to bring back those who had been driven out during the Hitlerite era and to train large numbers of younger people to cope with the big extensions planned. This is a problem which has not yet been fully solved.

The establishment of the pre-university institutes, which later developed into the Workers' and Peasants' Faculties where young people who left school at 15 can bring their general knowledge up to university standard, was an important step in bringing democracy into the universities.

In earlier years the average age of students in these faculties might be anything up to forty, but this decreases yearly as more and more young people are able to take advantage of these courses. 3,000 new students entered Workers' and Peasants' faculties this autumn, and university entrance examination results improve year by year. This is certainly due in part to improvements in primary and apprentices' school teaching.

Another important point about these faculties should not be forgotten. The decision as to whether primary school children shall go on to high school and thus have the chance to study at a university is taken during the last (eighth) primary school year. But in East Germany even this is not an irrevocable decision, since young people who develop later, or whose special bents appear later, still have the chance to substitute the three years' study at a Workers' and Peasants' Faculty for the customary four years at high school.

This is in sharp contrast to the present tendency in West Germany to return to the pre-School-Reform method of separating prospective high school students at the end of four years' primary school. In East Germany financial considerations also play a very minor role, since students at workers' and peasants' faculties get a basic stipend of 130 marks a month which increases with good work.

95 per cent of all workers' and peasants' faculty and university students in East Germany at present receive stipends. The importance of this is clear when one calls to mind that less than 5 per cent of university students in West Germany are children of workers and peasants, that there is only one student to every 400 inhabitants, and that very few stipends are available.

Undergraduates' practical work is linked up with their studies, so that, for instance, students of pedagogics spend one day a week in schools and do a period of practical teaching before taking their final examinations; students of agriculture work on actual problems, such as research into the best types of potatoes or wheat to grow in various kinds of soil, and they go out to help with the harvest in the summer.

Engineering students must also spend a good deal of time in engineering works, and of course in such faculties students who have completed an apprenticeship and entered university through a workers' and peasants' faculty are actually at an advantage over those who came to university through high school.

A very important point was the introduction of basic studies in the social sciences, so that all students can understand the connection between their own studies and general social development.

Post-graduate, mainly two or three-year courses in all branches, were introduced with a view to helping to overcome the shortage of university teachers and research specialists. There were only 253 of these in 1950, but the number has risen to over 1600 in 1955. These postgraduate students receive a basic stipend of 500 marks a month.

The introduction of home study courses for external students met with a very eager response from older people who wished to qualify themselves further without giving up their jobs. There were 4,800 new external students this autumn.

It was clear that the existing universities would not be able to cope with the growing number of students. In 1946 the Dresden Institute of Technology, the Mining Academy in Freiberg and the Institute of Architecture in Weimar reopened, and the schools of art began work again in 1947, but an enormous amount of reconstruction, extension and new construction has been accomplished since then.

In 1953 there were six universities and seventeen other higher educational institutes in the Republic. In 1954, fourteen new institutes including three new medical schools had been opened, amongst them the Institutes for Heavy Engineering in Magdeburg, for Engineering in Karl Marx Stadt and for Electro-technology in Ilmenau, an agricultural institute in Neugattersleben, one for animal husbandry in Guestrow and six institutes of pedagogy. This year there is a total of forty-six universities and institutes of university standard, covering all branches of learning from theology to physical training.

About 1000 East German undergraduate and postgraduate students are at present studying in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, and about 700 foreign students, mostly from China, Korea and Vietnam, are studying at workers' and peasants' faculties and in universities in East Germany.

13 West German professors and 22 Soviet professors lectured in East German universities in 1954—55.

A very interesting development is the increase in the number of women students. 36 per cent of the new students this year are women, and the total percentage of women at the universities is 30. In some faculties the percentage is very high indeed — 60 per cent in agriculture, 34 per cent in natural sciences and mathematics, 63 per cent in dental medicine and 56 per cent in medicine, 46 per cent in philosophy, 64 per cent in high school teachers' and 71 per cent in middle school teachers' training.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A few days ago I was watching an interesting scene on the television screen. The set was tuned in to the West German T.V. programme, and we were shown a crowd of men being given a hero's welcome, with flowers, brass bands, vestal virgins, and a smooth-faced paunchy West German Minister telling the men in a sanctimonious voice: "You have returned at last. You have represented all of us, and have suffered for us all."

Amnestied Criminals

Most readers have probably seen similar pictures in their papers, on their T.V. screens and in the news reels. It was the reception given to one of the batches of war criminals released from prisons in the Soviet Union, where they were serving sentences for the appalling crimes which they committed there during the war.

Rather over 9000 war criminals, all that were left in the Soviet Union, have been amnestied and are on their way back to Germany, or have already arrived. Soviet statesman Nikita Khrushchov explained the reason for the release of these men in these words, which I think are worth recalling:

"Time passes and people change—some for the better and some for the worse. Most people change for the better, however. That is why we think it possible to accede to the request to release these people before the expiry of their sentences... These people have a considerable term of imprisonment behind them, and we hope that they will have undergone a change for the better."

Rehabilitation

In East Germany, the amnestied war criminals who lived there previously are being received in the way that released convicts should be received in any civilised country-they are fitted out with a suit, a job is found for them, and social service officials do their best to see to it that they have a fair chance to rehabilitate themselves. It may sound too good for cold-blooded criminals of this nature, but if they can be rehabilitated and reformed this is obviously the way to do it.

But in West Germany they are being treated as heroes and martyrs. There have been a few voices of reason in the West German press, but the mass of the big-circulation papers and the radio in West Germany have been filled for the past few weeks with a chorus which may be summed up as: "Here are our honourable, gallant and chivalrous heroes, the flower of Germanic manhood, who have been brutally mistreated by those loathsome Russians, just out of spite."

And in many of the press and radio accounts there has been an undercurrent saying clearly: "Just wait until we have our Wehrmacht again, then we shall teach those brutal Russians a lesson."

These men have been amnestied and released, and normally one would not like to bring up the details of the crimes for which they were sentenced. But in this special case I think it is justified, in view of the circus staged by West German propaganda.

White-Washed

One of the these gallant white-washed heroes returning to West Germany, for instance, was Rudolf Jordan, nazi Gauleiter of the province of Sachsen-Anhalt. He went on record on June 21st 1943 in a public speech with these words: "The only good Jew is a dead Jew: the Jews must be wiped out." And in the same train was a man described in the West German press only as "Kurt M." who was sentenced by a Soviet court to 25 years for his direct participation in the mass murder of Jews. "But I was only the driver of the gas extermination waggon" is his excuse today.

And the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung", one of the few West German newspapers which has done something to present a balanced picture of the returning war criminals reports the return of Professor Karl Glauberg, who made medical experiments in concentration camps. The "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" reports: "With the pride of the scientist he tells how he had worked out a new method to sterilise Jewish women by the use of injections. He tested his method on 150 women in Auschwitz Concentration Camp. He is still convinced today that in 'special cases' his method is worth practicing today."

But I could fill a whole volume with such reports. I should like to close with a short comment on the returned war criminals in the "Manchester Guardian" on October 13th:

"But if anyone in Germany is roused to belligerent anger by their suffering, he should remember that Belsen came before Vorkuta and it was the Germans who invaded Russia."

Spiegel

Readers of GERMAN REPORT will have noticed that we often quote from the West German news magazine "Spiegel". This magazine has won a very big circulation, and made plenty of money for its owners, by muck-raking in West German affairs—and there is obviously plenty of muck to rake.

On October 19th the "Spiegel" had another report which we think would interest readers. The magazine reported that the Federal Centre for Homeland Service, an official propaganda institute of the West German Government, had financed the translation of a book from the English on the subject of anti-Semitism. (Apparently the aim in publishing such a book would be to demonstrate that German fascists had no monopoly in this revolting doctrine.)

And here is the rest of the story, as the magazine told it: "The book had an appendix consisting of the names of about one hundred prominent anti-Semites. Just before the book was published in the Federal Republic it was discovered by chance that the list in the appendix included the names of more than half a dozen leading officials of the Bonn Foreign Ministry. No decision has yet been taken as to whether this democratic work should not be published in West Germany, or whether it should appear only with an abbreviated appendix."

Name Please

So far the "Spiegel". Now this is where the readers of GERMAN REPORT come in. I should be very glad to publish the names of these half dozen leading officials, but I have been unable to trace what English (or American) book could be meant. If any reader knows this book, please let me know at once, giving the full title, author and publisher, or better still, sending me the book itself.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8. Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik